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March 25, 2002

Honorable Robert O'Farrell
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court
Monterey County
P.O. Box 1819
Salinas, CA 93902

Dear Judge O'Farrell:

Please find attached the response of the City Council of the City of Pacific Grove, to the findings and recommendations of the 2001 Grand Jury Report, dated January 2, 2002.

These responses were approved by the City Council at their meeting of March 20, 2002.

Sincerely,

Ross G. Hubbard
City Manager

Attachments: Responses to Findings Form
Responses to Findings and Recommendations



Recycled
Paper

(Agency)

See Attached

Response to 2001 Grand Jury Report Monterey Bay Beaches

Finding #3: There is inadequate storm drainpipe maintenance in Monterey Peninsula cities.

Response: The City of Pacific Grove agrees with the finding, with the additional comments below.

Comments: As a result of the Federal Requirement of the Clean Water Act of 1972, all cities on the Monterey Peninsula will be required to obtain National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Phase II (NPDES Phase II) permits in March 2003. Those permits will require each City to develop and implement "good housekeeping programs" for existing storm drains. The programs are to include system assessment, maintenance, and capital improvements; the program also must include storm drain system mapping and the development of best management practices to improve storm water runoff quality. Also required is the detection and elimination of illicit discharges into the storm water drainage system.

Although the NPDES Phase II are future requirements, the City of Pacific Grove has taken many activities in the past to improve water quality and make capital improvements to the storm water drainage system.

Pacific Grove has undertaken a smoke-testing program of our wastewater collection system to detect any failures that would allow sewage water to enter the storm drain system. Seventy-five (75%) of the City has been tested, bids were recently awarded for the final phase of the program.

We have funded the following education program for storm water quality developed in partnership between the City of Pacific Grove and the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary that is distributed throughout the Monterey Peninsula. Volunteers under the direction of the City marked all storm drains with warning signs. We participate with Urban Watch who takes regular samples of Monterey Bay waters and reports pollutant types and levels. We annually fund BayNet, a group of volunteer docents to provide residents and visitors with information about shoreline issues including education about pollution prevention.

Pacific Grove is working with other Monterey Peninsula Cities and the Monterey Regional Water Pollution Control District (MRWPCA) to develop a joint NPDES permit for the Phase II requirements. Through these collaborative efforts, storm

waters, which do not respect cities boundaries, can be analyzed and improved on a regional basis. Included in these efforts will be the development of a sufficient and permanent funding source to continue to upgrade the City's storm drain system and best management practices.

We will encourage the joint efforts and seek all available information from the County of Monterey. We will also rely heavily on the efforts of the City of Monterey that has taken the lead in storm water management for the past 10 years.

As a final word on this issue, the City of Pacific Grove has secured a grant for the development of a pilot project to divert summer storm drain outflow into the sanitary sewer system. This \$500,000 grant envisions a system of new underground pipes that will take storm drain flow from the outfalls between Lover's Point and Hopkins Marine Station and divert this flow into the sewer system. The material will be pumped to the regional wastewater processing plant for processing. More than 20 storm drainpipes could be diverted as part of this project and a second grant that we are currently seeking. Approval of the MRWPCA Board of Directors has been secured and contracts with the State Department of Water Resources are being prepared for approval at this time.

Finding #4: Only one public information forum on how to keep beaches and coastal waters healthy was conducted in Monterey County during 2001. It was held in Monterey on February 28, 2001.

Response: The City of Pacific Grove agrees with this finding, but offers the following information for review.

Comments: The February 28, 2001 forum, repeated in Santa Cruz County on March 1, 2001, was initiated and developed through the offices of the Pacific Grove Mayor Sandra Koffman and Monterey County District 5 Supervisor Dave Potter. The forum began a dialogue between responsible agencies that continues today on methods to improve the quality of Bay waters.

The City has developed and funded the following educational efforts:

1. Reprinted and distributed copies of the urban runoff brochure "Monterey Bay is Closer Than You Think." The brochure contains specific tips for homeowners to reduce the impacts of urban runoff.
2. Reprinted and distributed copies of no-dumping storm drain poster.
3. Funded airtime for a "Dirty Word" campaign. The campaign was developed by the Sanctuary and educates local citizens about storm drains, urban runoff contamination, etc.
4. Reprinted and distribute copies of Best Management Practices (BMP) posters for restaurants and auto repair facilities and BMP videos for restaurants.

5. Conducted outreach to restaurants and auto repair facilities to educate about the impacts of detergents, grease, and oil on the natural marine environment and how these contaminants reach the Sanctuary through the storm drain system.
6. Expanded the Urban Watch monitoring program with the Sanctuary and Coast Watershed Council to sample additional selected storm water outfalls in the City during the dry weather season. Samples to be analyzed and documented in a region wide report for storm water monitoring in the Monterey Bay area. The Urban Watch monitoring program will also assist the City in developing an illicit discharge detection program.
7. Developed a "First Flush" monitoring program. The program sampled runoff at selected storm water outfalls in the City following the first major rain event of the season and assist in establishing first flush protocols and coordination throughout the Monterey Bay region.
8. Assisted with funding the Sanctuary Citizen Watershed Monitoring Network to continuously provide training, coordination, and data management of a regional network of citizen volunteers. The effort incorporated City volunteers into a broader regional network to ensure quality control, standardized data compilation procedures.

Through the City Sewer Enterprise Fund the city also began programs to clean the bay environment by the elimination of grease in the sewer lines from both residential and commercial uses.

A public information campaign including theater spots, radio advertisements, an information packet that was mailed to every postal address within the City, an in-school education and contest, and information booth at the city's annual Good Old Days celebration have all assisted in education of citizens and visitors to the Bay area about pollution prevention through grease reduction.

Recommendation #1: The Board of Supervisors direct the Environmental Health Division of the Monterey County Health Department to share its expertise with Monterey Peninsula cities, working with the cities to determine what support they require to develop a community education program. The community education program that each Monterey Peninsula city develops should include, but not be limited to:

- a. Sources of run-off pollution into Bay waters;
- b. Monterey Bay bacterial pollution;
- c. Potential illnesses from polluted ocean water;
- d. Method prevention of pollution of Monterey Bay waters.

Response: The City of Pacific Grove is receptive to any assistance that the County of Monterey Health Department can give us and other Monterey

Peninsula cities in the development of a public awareness of the effects of pollution and the methods to prevent pollution of Monterey Bay.

Comments: As stated earlier the city has been involved in a wide range of programs to educate our citizenry and visitors on Monterey Bay pollution prevention. With the development of a regional NPDES Permit, a regional education program will be easier to develop and complete.

Programs already in place include those listed above in comments to Finding #4. It is anticipated that each of those programs will be evaluated annually to determine the need to continue, modify, or develop replacement programs to ensure health of the waters of Monterey Bay.

The City of Pacific Grove continues to work with the other cities and the County to develop new methods to provide a clean environment for all those who live in or around the Monterey Bay.